THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

MAGAZINE.

"Man of *lofty* virtue looks up
To heaven, so calm, and pure, and beautiful;
And mirrors his own soul as in a glass.
He looks below, but not contemptuously;
For there he sees reflections of himself,
As a poor child of nature; and he feels
A touch of kindred brotherhood, and pants
To lead the weak and erring into heights
Which he so joyous treads; nay, more, descends
Into the smoky turmoil and the roar
Of the rude world, his hands at work on earth,
His soul beyond the clouds, dwelling with God,
And drinking of His Spirit."

VOLUME IV.

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AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

THE closing month of another year brings with it the duty, and we would add the pleasure, of again addressing our readers.

Nothing very remarkable has occurred during the year in connection with the work of Ragged Schools, unless we regard the discovery of Australian gold-fields as exercising a vast influence on our poorer population, and probably increasing immensely their chance of employment both at home and abroad. Our work would be much facilitated if the public mind were sufficiently awakened to its duty towards our perishing and dangerous classes—if Christians did but rightly feel their solemn responsibilities towards their poorer brethren—if legislators did but fully comprehend the economy of preventing crime, or the philanthropy of doing so, before they award punishment upon ignorant and youthful transgressors: but it is otherwise. We are therefore bound to give line upon line, and precept upon precept, in order to bring out in bold relief the various causes of juvenile crime, still carelessly permitted to exist amongst us, which might in a great measure be removed by wiser legislation and more active Christianity,—as well as to point out counteracting agencies and remedial efforts already at work, the results of which show almost in every page of our Magazine how God blesses the work in which we are engaged.

Amongst the causes of crime (which we intend more fully to describe and detail in coming numbers) we have published articles on Street Vagrancy, Indiscriminate Almsgiving, Wretched Dwellings, and Prison Scenes.

Amongst the remedies, we have frequently referred to the Bible influence brought to bear upon the children, and again and again mentioned Emigration, (giving instances of pleasing results,) and also the benefits of Industrial training.

We have also given more in detail the History, Locality, and Results of particular Schools, such as Agar Town, Hoxton, Gray's Yard, King's Cross, Field Lane, Dublin, Edinburgh, Hull, Sheffield, and Manchester.

We have noticed kindred efforts to improve the condition of the poor at home, such as the Working Men's Educational Union; and also remedial institutions abroad, such as the Rough House, Hamburgh, and the House of Refuge, New York. We have placed before our readers the proceedings of an important Committee appointed at the Birmingham Conference, and also the praiseworthy labours of private individuals (such as Thomas Wright) to lessen juvenile crime; and in various ways we have endeavoured to encourage our old friends, and to enlist new ones in the Ragged School cause.

We intend to prosecute our work as in this and former years, and to continue it as long as the necessity exists. Our aim will be Improvement, Advancement, Usefulness, in preference to productions of mere literary interest. We are much indebted to many friends for their kind aid; for which we beg to thank them, and to say that a continuance of their assistance will be esteemed a favour. Papers suitable, practical, and interesting, will be always acceptable.

1, *Exeter Hall, December*, 1852.

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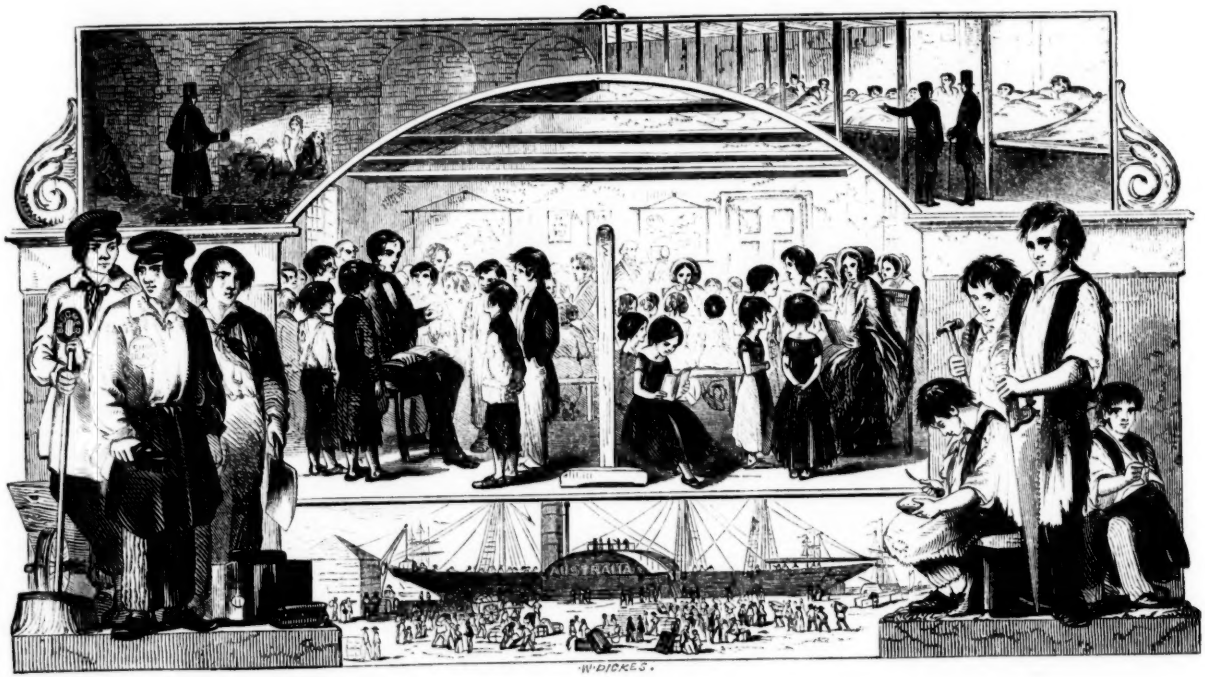
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